Serving The People Of The Hunters Point-Bayview

THE SPOKESMAN

VOL. 1 NO. 9, Thursday Jan. 6, 1965 [1966]

FUNDING HUNT PT HOUSING

Today this community was visited by the Redevelopment Agency's M. Justin Herman. He spoke at the Area Planning Board Meeting at the Joseph Lee Auditorium before a crowd of about 30 people.

Herman stated that about three or four years ago his agency became interested in getting the old war housing of Hunters Point replaced with facilities more in line with the needs of income of the residents. Several attempts were made to get Federal funding, but the agency was turned down on technical grounds. The technical grounds for refusal was said to be the fact that there had already been one Federal grant to this area. This grant is said to have been the sale of this land at a sub-market price to this City. Therefore it was stated that if any grant was to be made, it should be made by the City.

Herman affirmed that his agency was not satisfied with the reaction from the Federal Government. They felt that if grants were going to be made, they should be made to those who need them most, and not be denied on such technical grounds. The agency was offered a loan for working capital, but it was clear that this would have to be paid back.

Proposition 14 has hampered the ability of this area to obtain Federal funds, because it is clear that Federal Housing Administrator, Robert Weaver, has held up any Federal funding until the constitutionality of Proposition 14 is determined in the Courts. Herman stated that his agency is doing what they can to get a settlement on Proposition 14, and that they are trying to get legislation through so that Federal funds will be allowed despite any result on Proposition 14. The agency has asked Representative John Burton to introduce legislation that would prevent any denial of Federal funding. The legislation got through the Senate, but was blocked in the House. This legislation, introduced first as a rider, was again introduced as a separate bill.

Technically, the bill was introduced to quality Hunters Point for federal funding, and has a stipulation requiring such war housing to have at least 1200 units. At the time of introduction of the legislation there were 1800 units. However, today there is a demolition project and the old housing is steadily being torn down; there is a threat of possibly not qualifying for funding under the new legislation. Herman, at this point, introduced to the group his main purpose for attending the meeting, which was to get the community to support a modification of the bill. This modification would allow Hunters Point to qualify regardless of the number of units, but there are several technicalities in this modification that were not explained. For example, it provides that the grants should only be available providing the City turns over the land to a local agency without charge. Herman then stated that this type of legislation should be appealing to community because it is an effort to keep the cost of housing down, by keeping the price of the land down.

When the session was opened for questioning, it was immediately asked: how many units of the proposed housing prepared by the Redevelopment Agency will be for families with incomes lower than 7,000 yearly? Herman's answer was, I don't know. He was then asked: what did he mean by wanting community involvement in all housing programs by the Redevelopment Agency, in light of recent unilateral action on the Industrial Park by the Board of Supervisors? He then answered, as a Government Agency, we cannot set on the shelf and wait until the people of this community decide to act, before we move on a resolution. This community has the responsibility of organizing itself to deliver effective participation in working with all government agencies.

PLAN BRD FIRM WITH HERMAN

The Director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Mr. Justin Herman, in an appearance before the Hunters Point Area Planning Board, pledged "unequivocally" to give Hunters Point representatives a part in the planning of future construction on the land where temporary war housing is being demolished.

The following resolution was passed by the Area Board, with Mr. Herman's agreement. "That the Hunters Point Area Planning Board designate itself as the official body to deal with the Redevelopment Agency in the planning and execution of all projects proposed for this Community, reserving the right to designate another body for this purpose should the Area Planning Board see this as the most feasible plan."

The intention of the motion was to allow the Area Board to delegate the authority to the Bayview Hunters Point Community Development Corporation, the organization made up of concerned residents of the area.

Mr. Herman also asked the Area Board to support legislation which would soon be presented to the United States Congress by Congressman Philip Burton, legislation designed to free federal funds for use in the Hunters Point redevelopment. The Area Board decided to study the legislation jointly with the Development Corporation and then hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 4th to decide whether or not to endorse the proposed bill.

NEW JOBS FROM POV PRGM

The Hunters Point - Bayview Area Board is now screening applicants for positions just recently authorized by Washington, D.C. These positions are Community Aides (3), Intake & Referral Aides (2), Youth Organizer (1), and Youth Organizer Aides (2) part-time.

Information and applications may be acquired at the Area Office, 1449 Mendell Street, corner of Third & Palou Streets.

George Napper, Area Director, states that there is much work to be done if we are to come up with helpful programs in the Hunters Point-Bayview District. There is also a definite need for more male applicants. Mr. Napper states that this is our program and it will be just what the community wants it to be.

The deadline for filing applications is January 12, 1966. The phone number of the Area Office is 826-8890. You are invited to stop in and observe your workers in action.

NEW WELFARE CORP

A new corporation to be known as the Bay Area Council for Social Planning is being formed to coordinate research and action concerning welfare needs and services in the five counties surrounding the Bay, Don Fazackerley, chairman of the organizing committee announces.

Articles of incorporation are to be filed this week.

Mortimer Fleishhacker, Jr., longtime volunteer leader in welfare work, has agreed to serve as president. He telephoned his acceptance last week from Afghanistan while on business for the Asia Foundation of which he is a trustee.

Paul Akana, associate director of the Health and Welfare Association of Allegheny County at Pittsburgh, Pa. for the past three years, and a member of its staff since 1956, will be executive director. Akana, a native of Los Angeles, graduated from New York University and has a masters degree from New York School of Social Welfare affiliated with Columbia University. He is married and has three children.

There will be a county planning council in each of the five participating counties. They will be an integral part of the Bay Area Planning structure. These County Councils will deal with special problems existing in their own localities and provide representation to the area-wide body. They will be located in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. Each will have a small staff. These new county bodies will replace presently existing welfare planning councils which in some cases cover only part of a county.

Volunteer leaders in each of the counties have given their commitment to participate in the new county-wide councils and the Bay Area Council for Social Planning. Those who have agreed to serve as vice-presidents of the Bay Area Council for Social Planning representing their respective counties are Craig Z. Randall, Contra Costa; Henry K. Evers, San Francisco; Frederic D. Kerr, Marin; Arthur R. Hellender, Alameda; and Dr. Charles Guttas, San Mateo. It is anticipated that they will be elected to serve as presidents of their county planning council.

The Bay Area body will have a membership of 250 persons, consisting of 30 members from each of the five County Council boards, and 100 citizens at large. These members will elect a 45-member Board of Directors.

The Citizens Survey Committee which developed the new plan following a year-long professional study of all aspects of united fund-raising, fund distribution, and social welfare planning in the five Bay Area counties believes that it will be more effective than the present scattered efforts, Fazackerley says.

"The new Bay Area Council for Social Planning can relate the study of welfare needs and the search for ways to fill them to the physical, economic and educational planning carried on by other area-wide organizations," Fazackerley states. "These include Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Health Facilities Planning Association, regional offices of various governmental agencies, and voluntary social agencies which serve the entire area. The central staff can work toward solutions to Bay-wide problems and can be deployed to assist the county councils with special projects as needed and in line with their special skills and experience."

Although Akana, executive of the Bay-wide body, arrives Feb. 1, the organization probably will not be fully operative until about March 1, Fazackerley says. There still are a number of legal and organizational details to be worked out.

Cont'd on Page 3

Butchertown



Mr. Melvin Crittenden who is very active in the CO-OP Self-Help Movement in the Bayview District. The members of the Progressive Men's Civic Club were special guests of Sam Jordan's for champagne and African Chicken last Sunday evening. Left to right in picture are Melvin Crittenden, the Robert Stewarts, the Robert Mitchells, the Edwards, Doris and Mr. Willie Nelson.

Sam Jordan is very quick to say that he operates the friendliest neighborhood bar in San Francisco. Below is a list of reasons to back up his claim:

Monday thru Friday 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. — A beer and Shot for 50¢.

Blue Monday Celebrity Party — 9:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday night is Ladies Night, three drinks for $1.00 and a special prize for the lady with the most personality.

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MERCHANTS HOST CHRISTMAS PARTY

For some 350 excited youngsters of our district, Christmas arrived at least temporarily one week early. The Bayview Neighborhood Community Center was the site of a giant Christmas Party on Saturday, December 18, 1965.

Commencing with the showing of the movies "The Littlest Angel" "Gullivers Travels," and concluding with the arrival of Santa himself giving away gifts, the occasion was a rousing success.

Again, thanks to the interest and contributions of two local merchants, Bob's H & K and G & E Liquors, and also the untiring efforts of Inspector Gene Simmons of the San Francisco Police Community Relations Bureau, this yuletide affair was possible.

For at least a month before the scheduled event these party's began to coordinate plans and individuals that this seasonal venture might prove successful and smoothly organized in the interest of the area youngsters. Soliciting the assistants of the local Economic Opportunity Council, and Inter Block Council, the affair was adequately chaperoned. Many parents accompanied their wide - eyed youngsters.

In a district such as ours traditionally characterized by apathetic, mercernary merchants and aloof and uncommitted police officers, such efforts offer needed direction and guidehands to those in similar capacities who are for all practical purposes, largely unconcerned. Today, merchants and enforcement agents can no longer suffice with their policy of "taking out" be it money or bodies. At some point, soon, hopefully, they will begin to realize that in the final analysis, it is that which is put in that enriches that which comes out.

Thanks to Bob's H & K and G & E Liquors and the Police Community Relations Bureau for recognizing this fact. Because of what they put in, the area as a whole, and the youngsters in general experienced that much more.

Black Facts

The most ancient names for so-called black people are Nehesu, or Nubian; Ethiopian, Moor from Ancient Egypt, and Negro or Nigrita from West Africa. All the above are native African Words. "Negro" is probably the oldest as the Negritos are the oldest known branch of the human race. "Negro" comes from the River Niger. "Niger" found its way into Latin and since the people from that region were dark-skinned, Niger, nigra, nigrum came to mean black. Negro, Negrito, Nigrita, means "the people of the great river." Black and colored, like white, are, on the other hand, European words. Ethiopian and Moor were popularly used to describe the so-called blacks until 1500. Shakespeare uses "Negro" only once and uses it synonymously with Moor. Africa comes from the ancient Egyptian "Af-rui-ka," or Kafrica, the land of the Kaffir.

The chief Back-to-Africa leaders were: Paul Cuffee, Major Martin R. Delany, African explorer; "Pop" Singleton; William Ellis; Chief Sam; Dr. Thorne; and Marcus Garvey. The last-named had a following much greater than the rest combined.

Haywood Shepherd, a free Negro, was the first person killed by John Brown's party of white and Negro raiders at Harper's Ferry in their efforts to free the slaves in 1859. Shepherd, while running off to arouse the white people, was shot dead in his tracks.

The blacks, like the whites, have been struggling for thousands of years to change their hair from its natural form. Negroes arranged their hair with hot irons in Egypt more than 5,000 years ago.

Editorial

Opportunity Knocks

It is understandable that any criticism of the Poverty Program is premature at this point, because it is still an infant program and no one knows what it will develop to be. However, this discussion will concentrate on the intent of the president in creating this program, what we think the intent was in its creation, what will determine its success, and what its possibilities are.

The program machinery has been established, but what was the intent in creating such machinery? The Poverty Program, once a dream, but now a reality came into being shortly after the president had taken office in 1964. Known today as a political wheel, and a master of legislation President Johnson has done well in providing programs and legislation for America's less-fortunate. It is almost needless to say that the less-fortunate really don't care about legislation and programs, as much as they do about results that relieve them of their economical and social burdens. Therefore this question arises in their minds too, what is the intent behind such legislation and programs.

First I venture to say that the intent of a man is impossible to objectively discern. From this point I will list only possible intentions in the creation of the Poverty Program:

1. A Political move by the president to assure the minority vote.
2. To create some jobs for the unemployed poor.
3. To relieve the masses of poor from their unfortunate plight.
4. To fore-stall or defeat a militant revolution by the oppressed minorities of America.

It is my opinion that this program was basically created with the intent of rallying minority votes, to create jobs for the unemployed poor, and as an appeasement to fore-stall or defeat a militant revolution by the oppressed minorities.

It should be understood that this is not to reflect in any manner on the greatness of the program, but merely attempts to give some light on the "why" of its existence.

The next question is what are the possibilities of the program after the machinery has been created? I realize that within the realm of possibilities there are a spectrum of probabilities. However, I will list only those probabilities that I consider most probable:

1. The program might provide a permanent foundation for poverty stricken areas to build on.
2. The program might provide a temporary foundation, that may fall after the government support is removed.
3. The program might provide temporary jobs for a few of the many masses of poor, training and experience for the unfortunate youth, and an opportunity to find new minority leaders in the area of administration.
4. The program might fore-stall an inevitable militant revolution by the long oppressed minorities.
5. That it will in fact give assistance to the needy masses in the society, and allow them to raise themselves from the depths of the waste lands of America.

It is my belief that the workers on this program should strive to bring into existence two of the above listed probabilities, (1) To provide a permanent foundation for the poverty stricken areas to build on, and (2) To give assistance to the needy masses in the society, and allow them to raise themselves from the depths of the wastelands of America. Exactly what means should be used to carry out these ends I cannot say, but I am certain that whatever means are employed must involve active participation by the masses of the poor, as opposed to participation only by a hand-full.

What is meant by permanent foundation is the establishment of a structure that is independent from Federal assistance. A structure that would provide economical and social stability within a community. It is not necessary that mammoth social institutions and businesses be established, nor is such probable. But the greatest independent structure that can be provided or created is one of a united community working against its age old adversary, socio-economic depression.

To at least give the oppressed masses an opportunity to raise themselves form the depths of the wastelands of America, is an opportunity long overdue. And with the creation of the Poverty Program opportunity is knocking at the doors of the poor throughout the nation. However, the question remains, what will be done with this opportunity? I hope that a solid permanent economic and social foundation will be the end result of this opportunity created by the program.

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ACTION ON RACIAL IMBALANCE IN SCHOOLS

The Human Rights Commission, at its meeting of December 23rd welcomed the action of the Board of Education in taking a first step towards seeking answers to the problem of racial imbalance in the schools. In a letter to the Board's President, Adolpho deUrioste, Chairman Edgar Osgood said, "That the question of racial and ethnic imbalance in our schools is the most sensitive area of intergroup relations and tensions in San Francisco at this time." The Commission also welcomed the Board's decision to ask help from experts with experience in other school districts. It urged that community groups begin and suggested that other agencies, such as housing, planning and redevelopment, also join the city-wide discussion since school imbalance affects their departments as well.

Promising to give constant attention to the school situation, the Commission offered its ongoing cooperation to the School Board in establishing the dialogue.

Director Frank Quinn, reporting on plans for opening up jobs on the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, indicated several approaches: (1) increasing the number of apprentices and establishing pre - apprenticeship training to enlarge the circle of potential apprentices; (2) Re - training on - the - job to encourage upgrading; (3) Upgrading to the other trades from laborer's ranks via on - the - job and classroom training. Other Bay Area Commissions, State Employment Service and other groups will work with the unions and suppliers for BART in enlisting cooperation for these equal opportunity measures.

So that more San Franciscans may see the Commission at work, its next meeting on January 13 will be held at night at Francisco Jr. High School, Bay and Powell Streets. The first night meeting in Chinatown will be followed later in the year by night meetings in Mission and Haight-Ashbury.

Coleman Addresses Ed Board

As Chairman of the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco, Dr. Coleman has addressed the Board of Education in regard to the Compensatory Education Plan submitted by the San Francisco Unified School District under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. This Act requires that "whenever there is, in the area served by the local education agency, a Community Action Program approved pursuant to Title 2 of the Economic Opportunity Act. . .the programs and projects must be developed in cooperation with the public or private non - profit agency responsible for the Community Action Programs." This requirement has not been met by the local Board of Education and he questioned their statement that close contact has been maintained with our office and that the Economic Opportunity Council staff has been fully informed as to the School District's plans under PL 89-10.

The Charter of the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco provides that this organization shall bring the fullest benefits to the poverty groups in the community. The clearest such mandate for this came about on the historic night of August 1, 1965, when 51 members representing the poor, the disadvantaged and the minority groups of this community issued a mandate to all the people of San Francisco that they were determined to have a meaningful voice in all programs which affect them. Dr. Coleman said that the members of his Council who were appointed by the Mayor, and did not subscribe to majority representation by the poor, have nevertheless remained on the Council and have abided by this mandate. They have committed themselves to helping the poor and disadvantaged by accepting this untraditional role and operating under circumstances foreign to their usual custom. There are still, however, many people in the community, individually and as members of organizations, who claim they are interested in helping the disadvantaged but want to do it only on their own terms -- terms which obviously have not been successful in the past.

Coleman stated that as long as he is Chairman of the San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council he will remain committed to the principles of Community involvement of the recipients of any poverty-related programs, and he will continue to be an advocate for their participation.

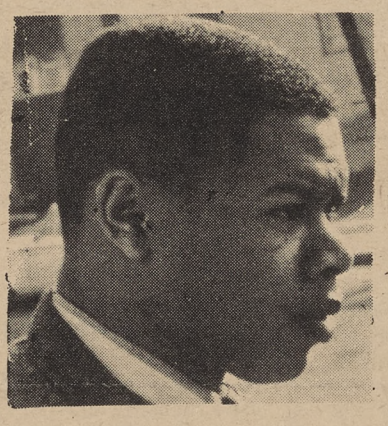
The San Francisco Unified School District and other agencies in the City must understand that the Economic Opportunity Council will not be circumvented and ignored in the matter or programs designed to affect the poor of this community. They would just as soon have the confrontation today as tomorrow. As stated in their telegram to this Board, they are prepared to seek a Federal injunction against any agency securing funds for the poor if such agency violates the spirit of the law which requires the "Maximum feasible participation," not symbolically but to the fullest letter of the law.

Spokesman's Spokemen Run For Co-op Board



Robert Simms: Spokesman Editor

Having worked with the Neighborhood Co-op since its beginning days Simms has developed a devotion and interest in its success as a monument to the Negro revolution. He believes the Co-op to be most positive self-help structure in the nation. Being selected as the Co - op's first manager trainee, and being active in numerous committee affairs he has acquired a knowledge of the purposes and needs of the Co-op that is essential to any efficient board member.



George Napper: Area Director for poverty program.

Napper has been working in the Hunters Point Bayview area since the early days of the Neighborhood Co-op. Prior to that he worked with the Berkeley Co-op. Presently a devoted Co-op member he is interested in working with the Co-op and the community to make the Neighborhood Co-op a great institution in self-help.

The nominating committee of the Neighborhood Co - op has nominated the following candidates for the board of directors to be presented at the annual membership meeting on Thursday, January 27, 8 p.m. at the Bayview Neighborhood Community Center, 4701 Third St., San Francisco.

Leonard Batts
Marcellee Cashmere
Berry Clanton
Gennett Cooper
Melvin Crittenden
Bernice Johnson
Marshall Farris
Samuel Johnson
Herman S. Cummins
Dr. Wesley Johnson
John Twidty
James Williams
Kline Wilson

Why They Don't Shop

After taking a survey in this area, we found that there were several reasons for people "not shopping" at the Neighborhood Co-op Supermarket, located at Third Street and Paul Avenue. Some said that they were not a member, well, you don't have to be a member to shop — everyone can shop Co-op.

Then some said that we do not have delivery service — did you know that many of the better stores and larger chain stores do not offer delivery service? But our store is SPECIAL — it belongs to the people right here in the neighborhood — so we will help you help yourself — members and friends will be glad to take you and your groceries home when you shop at the CO-OP.

If you will volunteer for volunteer delivery service — call me — Bertha Freeman — 285-4515.

Remember — your store IS your store and we know we can depend on you to support it — to make it grow, grow, grow. Everyone can shop Co-op.

See you at the Co-op store — at Third Street and Paul Avenue.

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WELFARE Cont'd

Arrangements must be made for local research, demonstration, and social action projects to be completed as planned.

San Francisco nominees to the Bay Area Council for Social Planning are: Rev Hamilton T. Boswell, John R. Bryan, M.D., Selah Chamberlain, Jr., William Jack Chow. Norman Coliver, Mrs. William S. Corvin, Mrs. Walter O. Dessauer, Mrs. Jack Dohrmann, Mrs. John M. Douglas, Henry K. Evers, Don Fazackerley, Hon. John J. Ferdon, Terry A. Francois, Richard L. Frank, Edward D. Goldman, Ed.D., Thomas M Jenkins. Eric Livingston, Mrs. Bertram V. Low-Beer, Mrs. William F. Luttgens, John R. May, David J. McDaniel, Austin Morris, Henry R. Morris, Earl Raab. Mrs. Benson B. Roe, Frank H. Sloss, Charles Watt Smith, Rev. John Chester Smith, Malcolm S.M. Watts, M.D., and Rev. Hugh L. Weaver.

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Portrait of a Community Worker

The Character of Mrs. Essie Webb



Being the wife of one of the Shipyard Workers who was recruited here in 1944, Hunters Point has consequently become my home. At that time there weren't many activities here, only churches, and most of them were out of this neighborhood. Later, as the years passed and we were blessed with the end of the war, people became more aware of the needs here, and gradually I became involved in community work. Working with youngsters in the church, I saw a great need for a broader involvement. It was always my desire as a young girl to help others and it seemed as if there was always someone at our home who needed it. My family was always able to do what they could for them, thus this has become a part of me. I am blessed with five children: George, a graduate of Galileo, a veteran, postal employee, married and has three lovely children; Olin (Pluca), graduate of Poly, 1/2 year college, and was an apprentice carpenter until he was drafted into the Army -- at present he is in Vietnam. Eric, a graduate of Mission, 1/2 year college, now an apprentice machinist marine, third year at San Francisco Naval Shipyard; Patricia, a graduate of Mission and entering college; Lionel, a student a Jediah Smith Elementary School. As their mother, I am proud of them and owe them a tribut for what they are trying to be. I am sure I didn't give them all the desires of their hearts but, I tried to instill in them the things that would make them good citizens. As to me, I owe all that I am to my lovely aunt, Nellie Dedman, who at this time is a patient at San Francisco Hospital. She did her best to educate me during the "lean" years and succeeded.

Since working in this community I have seen many things come and go here on the "hill." Economic conditions have caused some to move out and with the ones who have remained some of us have a community 'almost' organized. I say 'almost' because until every family becomes involved we cannot say it is fully organized. There are a lot of people who feel they can't do community work and some too shy, others who just haven't been contacted. I feel through our Block Organizations we can reach most of these people. One of the greatest achievements of which I was a part and now a member of is our CO-OP Supermarket. This is a very good example of what we as a group of people can do and proof of "in unity there is strength."

I can envision great things here on this hill; beautiful homes, shopping centers, recreation areas, museums showing contributions of the Negro along with other peoples, schools and libraries equal to all others, industries managed by Negroes, and all in all "changed people" who will walk the streets with hearts full of pride for this "hill". These are only a few of the changes I perceive and work toward. I am aware of the fact it will take time but with the youth of today their vim and anxiety, we must continue to accomplish this goal. Our youth must be made to realize that this is not the end. Our efforts to break out of this cocoon in which we are enclosed can be done through the use of the great abilities we possess and a foresight of a better tomorrow. (I am reminded here of a phrase used by a little two-year old: "Not 'tomorrow' but 'to-now'."

I am a member of St. John Baptist Church, and Recording Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Bayview Community Center, Secretary of the Advisory Committee of the Youth Opportunities Center; Secretary of Bayview-Hunters Point Community Development Corporation; Member of the Action Council of BAND; Member of Block F, and District Organizer in the Poverty Program.

Community As Seen By A Resident

I see this community as a well organized community with potentials that can best be realized through unity. Unity is the strong point of minorities and of indigenous persons as a whole. Together we can make demands, voice them and be heard, but we defeat our own purpose, when we decide that this group or that group is isolated and has to stand alone quite independent. This is not so. Any agency or group that serves the community at large should endeavor to have close working relations with all the other existing agencies or groups that serve the community.

There is (and I can't stress this too strongly) fantastic strength people cooperating together in every walk of life. Where there is unity there is tremendous strength. It is only human or natural for petty indifferences and jealousies to exist among us. When we let these things play an important role to the detriment of a neighborhood group or the community as a whole, we have allowed our selfish emotions to make us think in a vacuum. Very little can be accomplished if we divide ourselves.

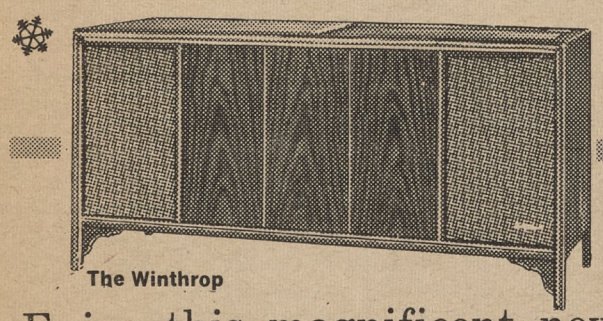
We would not have won our fight in the anti-poverty struggle for majority presentation were it not for unity. Martin Luther King's bus boycott could not have been successful in Montgomery if it were not for unity. Many other dreams in the civil rights movement would not have been realized if they had not been pursued with unified effort. Unity can be our contributing factor, toward hastening the day when the melancholy chant of the Negro shall no longer be "We Shall Over Come" but a joyous "WE HAVE OVER COME."

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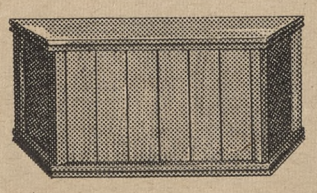
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